

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 9, 2001. The purpose of this hearing will be to consider nominations for positions at the Department of Agriculture.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 9 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing. The committee will consider the nominations of Francis S. Blake to be the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy, Robert Gordon Card to be the Under Secretary of the Department of Energy, Bruce Marshall Carnes to be the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Energy, and David Garman to be the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for the Department of Energy.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 9, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. for an oversight hearing on Federal election practices and procedures.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, May 9, 2001, at 10:00 a.m., in Dirksen 226.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 9, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND DRINKING WATER

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 9, 2001, at 9:30 a.m., to evaluate the listing and de-listing processes of the Endangered Species Act.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 9, 2001, at 9:30 a.m., on state of the rail industry.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Amanda Farrish from my staff on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001

Mr. ENSIGN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 10. I further ask consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate then resume consideration of the conference report to accompany the budget resolution as under the previous order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. ENSIGN. For the information of all Senators, there will be up to 1 hour 50 minutes of debate remaining on the budget conference report tomorrow morning. It is expected that some time on the resolution will be yielded back, and therefore the vote is expected to occur between 11 and 11:30 tomorrow morning. After the disposition of the budget conference report, the Senate will resume consideration of the education bill. There are numerous amendments pending and further amendments are expected to be offered. Therefore, further votes will occur during tomorrow's session.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ENSIGN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator CONRAD.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). The Senator from North Dakota.

BUDGET CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. CONRAD. One of the great problems of this budget is the defense build-

up that we all know the administration is going to call for—in fact, we are told it is going to come out next week—and the Secretary of Defense was asked by the President not to come out with his defense numbers before we passed the tax cut. Why? I suppose reasonable people could conjecture why they didn't want the defense numbers out before the tax cut was agreed to. But I think I know. I think the truth is that they know if you have the defense numbers, and if you have what is likely to happen in education spending, and if you have some commitment to strengthening Social Security, which everybody says they are for as part of a budget document, then the budget document before us simply does not add up. That is their problem.

When you put all of those numbers together, what you find is that you are into the Social Security and the Medicare trust funds.

In conclusion, I take my colleagues back to the budget proposal we made on our side because I think it was a fiscally responsible proposal, one that took the \$5.6 trillion forecast but understood that it was a projection, and that it is very unlikely to come true.

The Senator from Michigan has just shown how inaccurate these forecasts have been year after year. They average being off by 100 percent or more. That tells me that we ought to be cautious in what we do.

In the budget proposal we made, we reserved all of the Social Security trust fund money for Social Security, \$2.5 trillion, all of the Medicare trust fund money for Medicare, \$400 billion, and then with what was left, we had a proposed tax cut of \$745 billion in comparison to the \$1.3 trillion that is before us.

In other words, we had about 60 percent of the tax cut that is being proposed. We had \$300 billion more of investment on high-priority domestic needs. And the area where there were the big differences was education. We had \$139 billion of new money for education. Actually, what passed the Senate was much more than that. But this conference committee came back with nothing—no new money for education.

I know there are colleagues who believe this conference report has more money for education. It does not. It does not.

I have gone over these numbers in great detail. There is only allowed in this budget resolution the inflationary increase so that we are not cutting the effective amount for education every year. The truth is, even with that inflationary adjustment, we are cutting what is available because the student population is growing.

With no new money for education in real terms in what can be delivered per student, this budget cuts education, after the President has said education is his top priority.